

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1949 - 1950

SUBJECT      Economic - Construction materials

HOW PUBLISHED Daily, weekly newspapers;  
monthly periodical

DATE DIST. 20 Oct 1950

WHERE  
PUBLISHED USSR

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE  
PUBLISHED Jun - 25 Aug 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Russian

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE      Newspapers and periodical as indicated.

USSR DEMAND FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS GROWS;  
EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES STRESSED

COST OF MATERIALS TOO HIGH; MECHANIZATION LACKING -- Mekhanizatsiya Trudoyemkikh  
i Tyazhelykh Rabot, No 6, Jun 50

To speed up construction in the USSR and to reduce costs, it is necessary to improve the mining and processing of raw materials by mechanization of labor methods. The cost of materials, which now constitutes about 40 percent of the total construction cost, must be considerably reduced. Many materials, such as sand, clay, rubble, limestone, etc., are obtained from quarries. Special machines have been built for mechanized quarry work and a government decree was issued in 1948 regarding conversion of quarries to complete mechanization. By applying complete mechanization, the cost of quarrying one cubic meter of material can be reduced 50 to 60 percent. This has been achieved in several quarries of the Ministry of Transportation. However, despite the great advantages of the new method, a number of ministries are very slow in introducing complete mechanization in their quarries and manual labor methods are still being used. This is especially true in the case of the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises. The delay in converting quarries to advanced production methods should not be tolerated, as it is causing the country tremendous financial losses.

The cost of materials also depends on their being processed by enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry. Here too, complete mechanization and advanced technology are necessary.

GEOLOGICAL EXPEDITIONS HUNT FOR NEW DEPOSITS -- Kommunist, 20 Jun 50

The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR has sent 150 geological prospecting expeditions and groups to various parts of the Soviet Union for the purpose of finding new deposits of granite, marble, refractory clay, limestone, marl, sand for the glass industry, and other types of raw material necessary for the production of construction materials.

- 1 -

**SECRET**

CLASSIFICATION

**SECRET**

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION							
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI								

SECRET

SECRET

50X1-HUM

The greater part of the expeditions and parties consisting of experienced geologists, topographers, technicians, drilling experts, and other specialists have left for the Urals, Siberia, the Far East, Ukraine, Georgia, and republics of Central Asia.

TO DEVELOP MOSCOW GYPSUM INDUSTRY -- Vechernyaya Moskva, 2 Aug 50

Before the war, Moscow was supplied with gypsum from the Donbass, the Kama River region, and other places. Transportation costs were high and the supply of gypsum to Moscow construction projects was irregular. Gypsum deposits were discovered in the Moscow Basin shortly before the war. Three years ago, the Stalinogorsk gypsum mine was put into operation. A new plant for the production of dry plaster, commercial gypsum, and gypsum blocks was to be built on this location. The first unit of the plant was to begin operating in the last quarter of 1950.

The plant is under construction by the 9th Office of "Mosshakhtostroy" (Moscow Mine Construction) Trust. Very little progress has been made so far in the construction work. There is a shortage of workers, plans, and materials. Nothing has been done to provide housing for the workers. The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR and Minister Yudin should give serious attention to this construction project.

ESTONIAN STONE QUARRIES MUST INCREASE OUTPUT -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 25 Aug 50

One of the oldest building materials in Estonia is flagstone. The reserves of this material are practically inexhaustible. In many respects, flagstone is superior to reinforced concrete or brick. The Ministry of Housing and Civilian Construction and Construction Materials Industry Estonian SSR has directed the "Lasnamyae" Flagstone Quarry, near Tallin, to produce not only rubble and crushed stone but also construction parts.

In 1949, the quarry yielded 40,000 cubic meters of rubble and crushed stone and 37,000 running meters of steps, socles, and cornices. This year, the planned output is to be 60,000 cubic meters of rubble and 58,000 running meters of construction parts. However, the productive capacity of the enterprise is not yet fully utilized. The "Lasnamyae" Quarry satisfies only 25-30 percent of the demand by Tallin construction organizations. Therefore it is essential to increase compressor drilling and mechanize stone cutting at the quarry.

ARMENIA PRODUCES VALUABLE MATERIALS; DEMAND EXCEEDS OUTPUT -- Kommunist, 15 Jun 50

The rapid growth of capital construction in Armenia demands increased production of construction materials. However, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry pays very little attention to the so-called local materials, such as building stone, pumice, lime, marble, tiles, etc. Armenia has 10 Union-Republic enterprises and two plants subordinate to the Union, the Ararat Cement Plant and the Yerevan Mullite Plant. The ministry is interested only in the cement plant and ignores all the other enterprises, claiming that they produce only local materials for use in the republic and that they are therefore of no particular interest to the ministry. However, as everyone knows, Artik tuff from Armenia has been used in the construction of the Dneproges building, a large textile combine in Gori, numerous other enterprises and dwellings outside of Armenia, and many large Union enterprises in Armenia. Armenian marble has been used in facing the Kiev Station of the Moscow Subway. Ground and block pumice is being shipped to many parts of the country.

- 2 -

SECRET

SECRET

**SECRET**

SECRET

50X1-HUM

Armenia has inexhaustible resources of tuff, an excellent wall-building material. However, because of poor mechanization of quarries, only 480-500,000 cubic meters of tuff are obtained yearly, whereas the demand for this material is very great. The use of stone-cutting machines would considerably increase the output of tuff and cut down production costs, but the ministry has not yet made a decision in this matter, which has been pending for 3 years.

Kommunist, 2 Jun 50

The Tbilisi Construction Administration of "Gruzshakhtostroy" (Georgian Mine Construction) Trust receives more than 10,000 cubic meters of tuff yearly from Armenia. By the end of this year, the administration is to receive 5,000 more cubic meters of tuff.

"Gruzshakhtostroy" also receives from Armenia large quantities of pumice, another valuable building material. In 1950, the Tbilisi Construction Administration of "Gruzshakhtostroy" has received and used 3,000 cubic meters of pumice. By the end of the year, 2,000 more cubic meters are to be delivered.

KAZAKH SSR HAS RAW MATERIAL FOR GLASS INDUSTRY -- Izvestiya, 17 Jun 50

The construction materials industry of the Kazakh SSR has been unable to meet the growing demands of capital construction. The Five-Year Plan provides for construction of cement plants in Kazakhstan; however, this construction is progressing very slowly.

About 100 deposits of quartz sand have been found in the republic. Most of these deposits are suitable for exploitation and are located near railroad lines, fuel bases, and deposits of sulfate and dolomites. It would be possible, therefore, to build large mechanized enterprises in the Kazakh SSR for the production of a large assortment of glass products.

- E N D -

- 3 -

SECRET

**SECRET**